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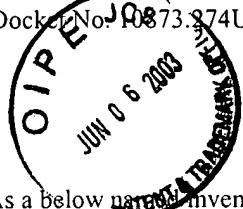
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MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

RECEIVED
JUN 11 2003
TC 1700

#24/DC
6/26/03

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: OPTICAL INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM, PRODUCING METHOD THEREOF AND METHOD OF RECORDING/ERASING/REPRODUCING INFORMATION

The specification of which

- a. is attached hereto
 b. was filed on September 3, 1999 as application serial no. 09/390,228 and was amended on (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. filed and as amended on (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

- a. no such applications have been filed.
 b. such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Japan	8-052772	11 March 1996	
Japan	8-176061	5 July 1996	
Japan	8-234016	4 September 1996	
Japan	9-079477	31 March 1997	
Japan	9-217627	12 August 1997	
Japan	10-011776	23 January 1998	
ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)
08/815,301	11 March 1997	pending
09/050,762	30 March 1998	pending

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Albrecht, John W.	Reg. No. 40,481	Lacy, Paul E.	Reg. No. 38,946
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Batzli, Brian H.	Reg. No. 32,960	Lindquist, Timothy A.	Reg. No. 40,701
Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
Black, Bruce E.	Reg. No. 41,622	McIntyre, Iain A.	Reg. No. 40,337
Bruess, Steven C.	Reg. No. 34,130	Mueller, Douglas P.	Reg. No. 30,300
Byrne, Linda M.	Reg. No. 32,404	Pauly, Daniel M.	Reg. No. 40,123
Carlson, Alan G.	Reg. No. 25,959	Phillips, John B.	Reg. No. 37,206
Caspers, Philip P.	Reg. No. 33,227	Plunkett, Theodore	Reg. No. 37,209
Chiapetta, James R.	Reg. No. 39,634	Pytel, Melissa J.	Reg. No. 41,512
Clifford, John A.	Reg. No. 30,247	Reich, John C.	Reg. No. 37,703
Cochran, William W.	Reg. No. 26,652	Reiland, Earl D.	Reg. No. 25,767
Daignault, Ronald A.	Reg. No. 25,968	Schmaltz, David G.	Reg. No. 39,828
Daley, Dennis R.	Reg. No. 34,994	Schuman, Mark D.	Reg. No. 31,197
Dalglisch, Leslie E.	Reg. No. 40,579	Schumann, Michael D.	Reg. No. 30,422
Daulton, Julie R.	Reg. No. 36,414	Scull, Timothy B.	Reg. No. 42,137
DeVries Smith, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 42,157	Sebald, Gregory A.	Reg. No. 33,280
DiPietro, Mark J.	Reg. No. 28,707	Skoog, Mark T.	Reg. No. 40,178
Edell, Robert T.	Reg. No. 20,187	Soderberg, Richard	Reg. No. P- 43,352
Epp Ryan, Sandra	Reg. No. 39,667	Storer, Shelley D.	Reg. No. P- 45,135
Glance, Robert J.	Reg. No. 40,620	Sumner, John P.	Reg. No. 29,114
Goggin, Matthew J.	Reg. No. 44,125	Sumners, John S.	Reg. No. 24,216
Golla, Charles E.	Reg. No. 26,896	Swenson, Erik G.	Reg. No. P- 45,147
Gorman, Alan G.	Reg. No. 38,472	Tellekson, David K.	Reg. No. 32,314
Gould, John D.	Reg. No. 18,223	Trembath, Jon R.	Reg. No. 38,344
Gregson, Richard	Reg. No. 41,804	Underhill, Albert L.	Reg. No. 27,403
Gresens, John J.	Reg. No. 33,112	Vandenburgh, J. Derek	Reg. No. 32,179
Hamre, Curtis B.	Reg. No. 29,165	Welter, Paul A.	Reg. No. 20,890
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Johnston, Scott W.	Reg. No. 39,721	Wickhem, J. Scot	Reg. No. 41,376
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Kowalchyk, Alan W.	Reg. No. 31,535		
Kowalchyk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848		

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C.
3100 Norwest Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4131

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Signature of Inventor 203: *Katsumi Kawahara* Date: April 11, 2003

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Signature of Inventor 205: *Eiji Ohno* Date: April 11, 2003

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Signature of Inventor 206: <i>Kenichi Nagata</i>			Date:	<i>April 11. 2003</i>

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.